

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

A NEW SPECIES OF SPATHACANTHUS FROM
GUATEMALA.¹

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Of the genus *Spathacanthus* (family Acanthaceae) only three species have hitherto been known, *S. Hahnianus* of Mexico, *S. Hoffmanni* of Costa Rica, and *S. Donnell-Smithii* Lindau, of Guatemala. The last species was originally described as *Macfadyena simplicifolia* Donn. Smith, and should be known as *Spathacanthus simplicifolius*, the change of species name by Lindau having been unnecessary.

To these must be added a new species recently collected in Guatemala by Dr. Alexander F. Skutch, which is described herewith. Among American Acanthaceae the genus is easily recognized by its shrubby habit, spathaceous calyx, and tubular white flowers.

***Spathacanthus parviflorus* Leonard, sp. nov.**

Frutex vel arbor parva; caules glabri; folia oblongo-elliptica, apice acuminata, basi angustata, utrinque glabra vel subtus axillis nervorum pubescentia; racemi terminales vel axillares, glabri, internodiis compressis; bracteae minutae triangulares; calyx spathaceus, ovatus, apice lepidotus, minute 5-lobatus; corolla alba, lobis parvis.

Shrub or small tree up to 7 meters high, much branched; stems glabrous; petioles 1 to 1.5 cm. long, glabrous; leaf blades oblong-elliptic, up to 13.5 cm. long and 5 cm. wide, short-acuminate at apex, the tip often curved, unequally acute or acutish at base, both surfaces glabrous, or the lower bearing clusters of yellowish spreading hairs (up to 0.5 mm. long) in the axils of the lateral veins, the upper surface bearing numerous minute cystoliths; flowers few, borne in axillary or terminal racemes up to 7 cm. long, the racemes usually with one or more leaves near the base, the rachis glabrous, the internodes about 1 cm. long, flattened; bracts minute, triangular, acuminate, 1 to 2 mm. long, 0.75 mm. wide at base, glabrous;

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pedicels 5 to 6 mm. long, glabrous; calyx spathaceous, greenish-yellow, ovate, 1 to 1.5 cm. long, 8 to 10 mm. broad, acute at apex (the tip minutely 5-toothed), splitting anteriorly on expansion of the corolla, glabrous, lepidote near tip within; corolla white, 2.5 cm. long, glabrous without, pubescent below attachment of stamens within, the tube 4 mm. broad at base, narrowed to 3.5 mm. immediately above base, thence gradually enlarged to 6 mm. but narrowed again to 5 mm. at mouth, the limb 5-lobed, the lobes rounded, about 2 mm. long and broad; one filament of each pair of stamens 11 mm. long, the other 7 mm., all glabrous, the anthers 3.5 mm. long, 1.5 mm. broad; style 13 mm. long, glabrous, the stigma lobes oblong, spoon-shaped, 0.75 mm. long; ovary 7 mm. long, glabrous.

Type in the U. S. National Herbarium, no. 1,637,895, collected in the heavy forests of Volcán Zunil, Department of Quezaltenango, Guatemala, altitude about 1750 meters, August 7, 1934, by Alexander F. Skutch (no. 961). Hatch and Wilson's no. 342, collected on the south slope of Volcán Atitlán, Guatemala, is also of this species.

Distinct from *S. simplicifolius* (Donn. Sm.) Leonard,² the only species of the genus hitherto known from Guatemala, in its exceptionally small corolla and calyx, the corollas of *S. simplicifolius* being as much as 6.5 cm. long and the calyx 3 to 4 cm. long.

² *Macfadyena simplicifolia* Donn. Smith, Bot. Gaz. 16: 198. 1891. *Spathacanthus Donnell-Smithii* Lindau, Bull. Herb. Boiss. 3: 371. 1895.